



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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PILOT ASSOCIATIONS JOIN CITY ATTORNEY IN CALLING FOR MAYOR TO SIGN STOP WORK AND USE ORDER TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUNROAD ENTERPRISES CENTRUM I BUILDING

San Diego, CA: One of the world's largest association of pilots and a local pilots group have joined City Attorney Michael Aguirre in calling on Mayor Jerry Sanders to immediately sign a Stop Work and Use Order that will completely halt construction at the Sunroad Enterprises' 12-story Centrum I building, which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined to be an air navigation hazard to pilots flying in and out of Montgomery Field in Kearny Mesa.

"This action will also start the process for Sunroad Enterprises to submit plans to reduce the structure of the building from 183 feet to 160 feet, bringing it into compliance with FAA," said City Attorney Aguirre.

In a memorandum to the Mayor and City Council, City Attorney Aguirre requested the Mayor issue the Stop Work and Use Order "which requires Sunroad Enterprises to stop all construction, maintenance, and use of the Sunroad Centrum I Building." Aguirre enclosed a copy of the Stop Work and Use Order for the Mayor to sign.

Representatives of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association and the Community Airfields Association of San Diego participated in today's news conference, as well as Council member Donna Frye whose district includes Kearny Mesa, where the Sunroad building is located.

"This is a serious safety issue not only for the residents of the surrounding community, but also all users of Montgomery Field," said Council member Frye.

Both pilots' organizations support the City Attorney's lawsuit against Sunroad Enterprises, which was filed on December 15, 2006. On April 24, 2006 the FAA sent Sunroad Enterprises a "notice of presumed hazard" indicating the building exceeded obstruction standards and would interfere with navigable airspace.

Gerald Blank, legal counsel for the Community Airfields Association called on the Mayor "to do the right thing, as a so-called strong mayor, and stop all work on the Sunroad building." Jim Pokorny, legal counsel
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for the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association also stated that the sole mission of the organization is to ensure enforcement of the FAA process, which will ensure aviation safety.

Last Friday, the City Attorney began pursuing the complete halt in construction to the Sunroad Centrum I Building after the Mayor confirmed in a live interview (June 14, 2007) with KOGO radio personality Roger Hedgecock that a City building inspector refused to sign a December 21, 2006 modified stop-work order that allowed weather-proofing of the Centrum building.

Under questioning by Hedgecock the Mayor also confirmed that he participated in a December 19, 2006 meeting with Aaron Feldman, President of Sunroad Enterprises and Tom Story, Vice-President of Development at Sunroad, in the Mayor's Office. Two days later on December 21, 2006, the stop work order for the Sunroad Centrum I building was modified and signed by Marcela Escobar Eck, Director of the Development Services Department. Sanders admitted to Hedgecock that Feldman went beyond weatherproofing the building.

To view public documents related to Sunroad Enterprises, the FAA, and the Mayor's Office visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, click Montgomery Field Airport Safety Issues.

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